



Abstracta Iranica

Revue bibliographique pour le domaine irano-aryen

Volume 26 | 2005

Comptes rendus des publications de 2003

« Pažūhešī dar bāb-e alqāb-e Tahmūreṭ : zīnāvand, dīvband, dībāvand, zībāvand ». *Nāme-ye farhangestān*, vol. 6, n° 1, (tīr 1382/juin 2003), pp. 193-205. [Une recherche sur les noms de Tahmures]

Rédaction



Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/1751>

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2005

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Rédaction, « « Pažūhešī dar bāb-e alqāb-e Tahmūreṭ : zīnāvand, dīvband, dībāvand, zībāvand ». *Nāme-ye farhangestān*, vol. 6, n° 1, (tīr 1382/juin 2003), pp. 193-205. [Une recherche sur les noms de Tahmures] », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 26 | 2005, document 334, mis en ligne le 07 décembre 2005, consulté le 20 avril 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/1751>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 20 avril 2019.

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- 1 In Iranian mythology, Tahmureṭ is the 3rd ever king of the land (after Kīyūmars and Hūšang) and he is said to have domesticated some animals, and taken certain steps towards civilized living by teaching his subjects to weave cloth and make garments for themselves. During his reign of thirty years, he fought and subjugated the dīvs (a race of crafty creatures who lived south of the Caspian Sea), and they, in exchange for their life being spared, taught Tahmureṭ their alphabet and reading and writing skills. It was thus that Tahmureṭ became known as dīvband (the captor of dīvs, especially in the *Šāhnāme*). But Tahmureṭ is also known by some other honorific titles, such as dībāvand and zībāvand, and notably zīnāvand, which is mentioned in the *Avestā*, meaning “fully armed”, and is favoured by such eminent Iranologists as the late Arthur Christensen over other titles.
- 2 In his copious paper, the author embarks on an exhaustive examination of these variant titles in Iranian, Islamic and Western sources in order to find out which would be the most apt. He is keen on the idea that Tahmureṭ is credited with having discovered how to produce silk by breeding silkworms, and also with having initiated the craft of weaving fine silken cloth, the dībā, which was also used as a surface for writing. And he concludes, among other things, that zīnāvand would be a more appropriate title for King Jamšīd, Tahmureṭ's successor, who paid a great deal more attention to weaponry.

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Thèmes : 11.1.0. Généralités

Mots-clés : Mythologie iranienne

Keywords : Shāhnāmeḥ, Avestā, Tahmūres, Iranian mythology

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RÉDACTION

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